THE
CATHOLIC RADICAL

"...to foster a society based on creed instead of greed." Peter Maurin

August/September 2025 ***Price: For whatever it's worth.***

God Does Not Bomb Children

by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy

Earlier this summer, Interfaith Action for Palestine (IAP), a self-described multi-faith queer and trans-affirming coalition brought people from as far away as Michigan, Alabama, and California into Washington, DC to protest Christian complicity in the genocide of Gaza.

The gravitating occasion was the annual conference of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), held June 29-July 1, outside our nation's capital at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. A Christian Zionist organization, CUFI claims 10 million members and reportedly has more leverage over Congress than AIPAC. Christian Zionists preach an imperial end-times theology, one in which Jewish acquisition of all the territory between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea is considered a necessary precursor to the Second Coming of Jesus.

Art Laffin, Scott Schaeffer-Duffy, Rose McPartland, Claire Schaeffer-Duffy, Betty, Kim Williams at the CUFI Conference

"Christian Zionism is a heresy," said IAP organizer Jonathan. "CUFI claims to do interfaith work, but it is only for Christians and Jews who accept the genocide of Palestinians. Ours is a coalition based on equality and solidarity, one committed to ending genocide."

A theology of solidarity prompted my husband Scott and me to come to DC.with our friend Jeff Conlon, a retired United Church of Christ (UCC) minister. The three of us joined Catholic Workers from the Northeast to form an affinity group for the IAP protests. By late June, Israel's war on Gaza had killed more than 56,000 Palestinians, 17,000 of whom were children. To briefly offer body and voice in dissent seemed the least we could do.

IAP is comprised of more than 30 faith-based groups and organizations. While most are Christian or Jewish, Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims are also represented. The coalition's primary organizers include Jonathan, a Palestinian Christian from Chicago, Margaret, a UCC minister from Pennsylvania, and Cole, a trans community organizer from North Carolina. Inspired by Jewish Voice for Peace, the trio formed Christians for a Free Palestine in January 2024, one of IAP's core organizations. Last year, 700 people participated in the coalition's anti-CUFI protests. The rolling actions during the three-day event included pastors, rabbis, and seminary students blocking busses filled with CUFI attendees en route to lobby lawmakers.

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Hypocrisy

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

On January 20, 2025, President Trump suspended the US Refugee Admissions Program, saying, "The United States lacks the ability to absorb large numbers of migrants, and in particular, refugees, into its communities in a manner that does not compromise the availability of resources for Americans, that protects their safety and security, and that ensures the appropriate assimilation of refugees." Since then, thousands of already vetted and approved refugees from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, and other places of conflict have been denied entry to the US. However, on May 12, 2025, Trump fast-tracked acceptance of 59 white Afrikaners whom he claimed, without evidence, were victims of genocide by the South African government. In late May, Trump fast-tracked the acceptance of 98 more Afrikaners.

In 2024, while on the campaign trail, Trump promised to deport "the worst of the worst" undocumented immigrants from the United States, but, on June 1, 2025, tracreports.org found that 22,438 undocumented people detained by ICE have no criminal record. CNN reported on June 16, 2025 that less than 10% of those detained by ICE have been convicted or charged with a serious crimes. Many detainees are taxpaying workers and parents of children who are US citizens.

On June 4, 2025, the United States vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and a lifting of all restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid. As the sole opponent out of 15, the acting US ambassador to the UN said we vetoed the resolution because it did

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Lax's Pax

by Joseph Picone

A jam session civilization means
Mystical Body of Christ.
it means I am you
and you are me.
it is a place where
love flows
in a state of grace,
where wars cease,
violence ends,
and peace reigns. Ω

Editor's Note: This poem was written in honor of Robert Lax (1915-2000), an American poet and contemplative, who was a friend of the Trappist monk Thomas Merton. Jack Kerouac called Lax both "a laughing Buddha" and "a pilgrim in search of beautiful innocence." Lax knew the Catholic Worker's co-founder Dorothy Day and was a frequent guest at Maryhouse Catholic Worker in New York City, where he once read his poetry.

Life Is a River & We the Streams

by Robert Lax

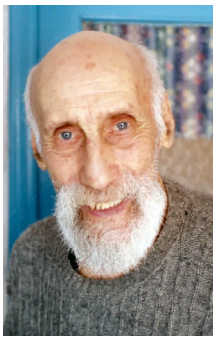
Life is a river
& we the streams
that feed it

each stream should
empty itself
completely

into the
river &
not hold back

our way of talking
our way of being
is what we have
to contribute
to the stream

why keep it
all dammed
up? Ω

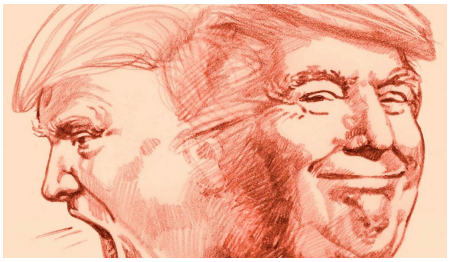


Robert Lax

Hypocrisy

(Continued from Page 1)

not demand the complete disarmament of Hamas and release of Israeli hostages. The ambassador made no mention of disarming Israel, the perpetrator of 98% of all killing since October 7, 2023 or of releasing the thousands of Palestinians



being held by Israel without charges.

On June 6, 2025, the *National Catholic Reporter* said that $60 billion cuts in humanitarian aid by the Trump administration had already led to the deaths of "104,382 adults and 217,808 children worldwide." On June 12, 2025, the House Committee on the Budget reported that Trump's budget gives "people making over $1 million a year $93.6 billion in tax cuts for 2027 alone."

On June, 9, 2025, President Trump told reporters at the White House that he would consider invoking the 1807 Insurrection Act to suppress pro-immigrant protesters in Los Angeles. Immediately following his inauguration, Trump gave full pardons and commutations for many of those convicted of violent acts in the January 6, 2021 insurrection inside the US Capitol. Members of well-known violent, extremist, and racist groups were among those pardoned. That insurrection, intended to block the peaceful transfer of power after Trump's loss to Joe Biden, resulted in injuries to 140 law enforcement officers and $2.9 million in damages.

We are living in an era of brazen hypocrisy. Let us redouble efforts to hold liars accountable and to value honesty. Ω

San Antonio

Catholic Worker

40th Anniversary Celebration & National Gathering October 2 –5

Please sign up to attend the first National Catholic Worker Gathering to be held in Texas. Like previous national gatherings, this one promises to be invigorating and informative. Dorothy Day's granddaughter, Martha Hennessy, will be one of the keynote speakers. Scott Schaeffer-Duffy will lead a round table discussion. For more info: https://mailchi.mp/sa-catholicworker/ng2025 or (210)-224-7736.

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Advice from a Law Enforcement Officer

Editor's Note: The following letter is from a long-time subscriber. He asked us to withold his name due to the current retribution against whistleblowers.

I am writing in response to Claire Schaeffer-Duffy's article, "Eureka Street," about ICE activity in and around Worcester. I spent over 35 years in law enforcement. Just because I was a police officer/state trooper, did not mean that I subscribed to their tactics. Here are some legal insights into ways to prevent police overreach from affecting you and fellow activists.

I would like to a stress that immediate relief may not occur, but with proper documentation and exposure, bad behavior should wane. While I was a police officer in Connecticut, most of the following observations apply nationwide with some limited exceptions.

First, police are considered "armed and sworn members of the judicial branch of government." They are empowered by law to do certain things that everyday citizens cannot do. When I refer to police, I refer to all, federal, state and local. An interesting note about police jurisdiction is that federal police, ICE, DEA, FBI, ATF, US Marshal and the like, can only enforce federal law. They are not empowered to enforce state/local laws unless some agreement was reached between the federal AG's office and the state's AG office. Also, state police can enforce state laws and local laws, but not federal laws. Local police can enforce state and local laws and ordinances.

I've read that ICE is saying that they are in possession of warrants. I do not believe that this is true for several reasons:

1. Arrest warrants have to name a certain individual specifically by name, date of birth, and last known address.
2. Search warrants have to name a particular place to be searched, as in description, address, owner of record, and these warrants have to name specifically the items to be seized. Also, in addition to listing the building/home/business, a search warrant needs to state that out-buildings and immediate area surrounding a building are part of the search warrant.
3. All warrants have to have an affidavit as part of the warrant. The affidavit spells out the probable cause, defined by the Supreme Court as: "What a reasonable person can determine, from the facts and circumstances presented, that a crime is occurring, has just occurred, or is about to occur." Sometimes, the affidavit portion can be withheld from disclosure temporarily but eventually, usually in

about 2-3 weeks, the judge will order it released to the public.
4. Unless specifically spelled out to the judge for discernible safety reasons, all warrants have to be conducted with "knock and announce," which means that police cannot surprisingly break into a home, but that they have to usually say, "Police with a search warrant, open up."
5. Copies of warrants usually have to be left with the homeowner and a copy provided to the arrestee.

As far as protecting private property, it is important to remember that the owner needs to establish this ownership. For example, my wife and I live on a private dead end dirt road posted "Private Property." Our individual property is also posted "Private Property No Trespassing." "All of us that live on this street confront people that trespass, like salespeople, canvassers, etc. Courts have ruled that generally, police can go anywhere on private property that any other member of the public is allowed. So, if you allow the UPS person, mail person, oil delivery, to access your property, then police can too. This permission can be removed so it needs to be monitored. My priest asked me about this, and I recommended that he post the rectory, out buildings, and other areas that are private. I would strongly urge you to post your home thusly, "No trespassing, residents and invited guests only." This allows your house guests to be there, but it keeps interlopers from being there. I would encourage you to post the entire property, not just the physical residence. And I would add that you both need to be vigilant and vocal so that this ownership standing is established and continues uninterrupted.

I would encourage and support recordings, both audio and visual, of all interactions with authorities. In Connecticut, the person being recorded does not have to be aware of the recording, so I would urge you to get a Massachusetts ruling on that. My phone has a voice recorder app, and I have used it several times. When people come to my door, I verbally record the interaction while the phone is in my pocket. I would also urge several people to record at the same time secretly. As far as video recording, do not use your personal cell phone, In the event of a court case, criminal or civil, that phone can be forced into evidence and that means the entire phone—all pictures, emails, financial data, etc. Use a digital camera, and keep the downloads separate from personal ones like family. Also, say at a protest or a demonstration, one person can be up close filming, but I would urge a second or even a third person recording from a distance while out of sight, for example, seated in a car. These back-up people have to remain out of sight, and that means even if the situation becomes violent. It will be hard, but proper documentation needs to be done.

If the time comes when these recordings need to be made public, forget the government. There is no sympathy there. If it were me, I would go directly to a TV news station or *The Boston Globe*. Bypass the evil middleman. This allows the public to first view the offending recording. Then the responsible parties are now forced into defending themselves and answering for their conduct.

My wife, Lori, and I continue to pray for an end to President Trump's madness. We believe that all of us who follow the risen Christ will see the end of this. Ω

Children

(Continued from Page 1)

At Sunday's orientation meeting, Cole said he hoped our actions would be "something of a reparation," for US facilitation of the Gaza genocide. "The government has funded 70% of the bombs dropped on Gaza and provided intentional cover for the starvation there. We know this must stop."

The IAP organizers were a conscientious crew, deliberately democratic. There were de-escalators, logistics coordinators, medics, a police liaison, a legal team, a security team, media people, and trainers who taught protest songs and guided us through role plays. A care team was also on hand to offer counseling, foot rubs, or back massages post-protest.

"It's all very millennial," said a retired professor and veteran of nonviolent protests in DC. "I am not sure I need that much care for just a few hours in a jail."

Monday's song protest was at the National Harbor, a leisure zone of concentrated opulence and grandiosity located on the banks of the Potomac River. The waterfront development has restaurants, hotels, 85 designer outlets, the MGM, a luxury casino resort, a 180-foot ferris wheel, and lots of public art.

We sang and processed along the Harbor's Waterfront Way, past statues of saluting soldiers and glassy buildings to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the biggest non-gaming hotel and convention center on the Eastern seaboard, and locale of the CUFI Convention. The hotel boasts "almost 2,000 rooms" and 66,000 sq. feet of meeting space. Its 19-storey-high atrium encompasses a garden and small model village with two-storey houses, trees and tidy lawns. "It looks like Lord Farquaad's village," said my Catholic Worder friend Clare, referring to the exclusive, artificially perfect village in the movie "Shrek."

For three hundred years, the Piscataway Conoy tribe inhabited the land where the Gaylord now looms. In 1687, Colonel John Addison acquired, or seized, the acreage later known as Oxon Hill. John H. Bayne built his plantation, Salubria, here in 1830. A prominent doctor and horticulturist, he used his enslaved laborers to develop innovative agricultural techniques. One of them, a girl of 14, perhaps inspired by Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion of 1831, poisoned the doctor's children and later hung for it. When a 1981 fire burned down the house, local historians and environmentalists unsuccessfully tried to preserve Salubria.

Prohibited from entering the Gaylord, some 300 of us sang in the designated "Free Speech Zone," a patch of grassy lawn outside the hotel gate. The scene was peculiarly American, Salubria's shadowed history hovering beneath the Gaylord's present-day garishness, our repertoire, an interfaith mash-up of Buddhist chant, Jewish and Palestinian peace songs, ol' timey labor tunes, and Christian hymns, their words adapted as appeals for Palestine. Clare had thought yesterday's rehearsal at the church "weak." Today's harmonies were full-throated, pulled from the heart and thrown to the blue June sky. "They say we can be heard on the eighth floor of the hotel, so sing louder," an organizer told us. From the hotel windows high above, doll-sized people peeled back their curtains to peer down at us. Sable, a young rabbi with porcelain skin and wavy hair, gave a short reflection through a megaphone that grew in vehemence as they spoke. The burning bush that appeared to Moses was not innately holy. It became holy because of what transpired there, the rabbi said. "The fact that we are standing here defending lives makes this ground holy. . . Christian Zionism is anti-semitism. Up, up, up with liberation! Down, down, with occupation!"

During a later debrief of the morning's action, Clare, in her inimitably non-judgmental way, mused on the power of silence in a protest. She recalled participating in a die-in in New York City back in 1978, 20,000 people lying "dead" on street and sidewalk to protest the devastation of nuclear weapons. "It was so quiet. So quiet," Clare said. As she spoke, I imagined thousands of us silently splayed on the green before the Gaylord in full-bodied appeal for Gaza. We would need a bigger green.

"Gaza has today become the moral center of the universe,"said Palestinian pastor and theologian Dr. Munther Isaac during his 2023 Christmas sermon. Israel's US-funded bombs had already killed 9,000 Gazan children. The relentless bombing of hospitals, the killing, detention, and torture of healthcare workers, the shooting of thirsty children en route to get water, these atrocities had yet to come and even then Munther called the war a genocide. He was appalled at Christian tolerance for the erasure of his people. "Here in Palestine, the Bible is used as a weapon against us," he said. "Here we confront the theology of empire. A disguise for superiority, supremacy, 'chosenness' and entitlement."

After Monday's song protest in front of the Gaylord, 10 IAP activists, who earlier entered the hotel surreptiously, unfurled two enormous banners from balconies overlooking the atrium. *CUFI Kills*, declared one. *God Does Not Bomb Children*, declared the other. The messages briefly hung over "Lord Farquaad's Village" before hotel security guards whisked them away.

From the National Harbor, many of us went to the eastern plaza of the US Supreme Court where Reverend William Barber and Repairers of the Breach were protesting Trump's "big beautiful bill," which Barber referred to as that "big, ugly, damnable, dangerous, destructive bill." It was up for a vote in the US Senate, and the assembled on the plaza had come to decry its deadly effect. 38 faith leaders were later arrested praying the government would stop killing the American poor. The next day, 100 IAP activists, including Scott and myself, were arrested in House and Senate buildings, singing, shouting, and praying the government would stop killing the Palestinians. The police set up rows of folding chairs in the warehouse where they processed us. Like school children in assembly, we waited for our names to be called and for the snip of a police officer's clippers on our handcuffs. The afternooon was hot and miserably humid. When I finally stepped out into the parking lot, I was grateful for the drenching rain of a thunderstorm and the white rose an IAP support person handed me. A group of them waited in the downpour until every one of us was released. Ω

Fiscal Hypocrites

Republicans have long claimed that theirs is the party of fiscal responsibility. Since the election of Donald Trump, Republicans have made extreme cuts to many programs, while authorizing much larger increases in spending that threaten the United States with bankruptcy. The annual spending changes listed below illuminate their priorities.

↑		↓	
Military	$1,562,000,000,000	Clean Energy	$336,000,000,000
Tax Cuts for the Rich	$100,000,000,000	Higher Education	$330,000,000,000
ICE	$12,000,000,000	Medicare & SNAP	$74,000,000,000
Israel	$4,000,000,000	EPA	$9,140,000,000
Troops at the Border	$1,000,000,000	Humanitarian Aid	$3,200,000,000
Troops to Los Angeles	$134,000,000	National Parks	$1,200,000,000
DC Military Parade	$45,000,000	Head Start	$1,000,000,000

The American Buffalo & the Olive Tree

by Dr. Murray Watnick

Editor's Note: Since 1967, Israel has cut down 800,000 olive trees in Gaza and the West Bank.

Several nations have practiced the art of population control with varying degrees of success. The US was extremely successful in controlling its vast indigenous Indian population. Another nation with great success in controlling its indigenous population has been Israel. This is due to a thorough knowledge of surveillance technology and the culture of the population it seeks to control. The American Indian had a strong connection to the land and what it represented. The colonists understood what the American buffalo meant to the native population: its spiritual, religious aspect and how all parts of the animal could be utilized for food, tools, and apparel. Destruction of the buffalo proved useful in the strategy to confine the Indians to reservations and to limit their aspirations.

A similar strategy is currently being used by the Israelis and their settler proxies by cutting down ancient olive trees. The olive tree has great meaning for the Palestinians, reinforcing their strong ties to the land, rhythm of life, and very existence.The destruction of the olive tree, along with Israeli control over water, food, roads, energy, and healthcare, represents strong intrusions into Palestinian life. This strategy is only possible with US complicity, funds, and advice. We must not forget that great profits can be made by exporting population control methods and knowledge to other countries who may have a desire to control their own populations. The current US administration may have its own ideas of how to use all these strategies to advance its own agenda. We must watch with great interest how this plays out in the coming years. Ω

Saving Lives

Although Catholic Worker personalists always favor voluntary change that comes through a revolution of the heart, we must admit that some laws save lives. No matter what vaccine skeptics like Robert Kennedy say, states that required vaccination for COVID saw vastly fewer deaths than those which did not. Mandated polio vaccines also saved countless thousands of lives.

On June 10 2025, *The New York Times* reported "More Children Are Killed by Firearms in States That Loosened Laws." A new study shows that, since 2010, the 41 states which loosened gun regulations saw dramatic increases in deaths of children, while the nine states which retained strict regulations saw no increase or a drop in deaths. Overall, states with strict gun regulations saw two and a half times fewer deaths than those with weak regulations. As many as 7,400 children killed by guns could have been saved by regulations. The evidence is clear that gun control saves lives. Ω

State	Gun Control Strictness	Gun Death per 100,000
California	1st	8.6
Massachusetts	2nd	3.7
Illinois	3rd	14.4
New York	4th	5.3
Connecticut	5th	6.9
New Jersey	6th	5
Hawaii	7th	4.5
Wyoming	44th	20.4
South Dakota	45th	15.7
Georgia	46th	19.7
Montana	47th	23.9
Arkansas	48th	21.9
Mississippi	49th	29.6
Idaho	50th	17

$5 for You

by Scott Schaeffer-Duffy

In the movie "Fifty First Dates," Drew Barrymore plays a woman who suffers a brain injury that wipes out most of her memories overnight while she sleeps. The phenomenon is disconcerting her husband, played by Adam Sandler. Each morning, he has to court his wife from scratch and make his peace with the fact that this will happen over and over.

One of the lingering side effects of my being hit by a car on July 22, 2019 is the diminishment of my own memory. From time to time, I see someone I realize is a close friend, but cannot remember their name for the life of me. Claire asks me questions that begin with, "Do you remember when we went to...?" to which I invariably reply, "Sorry, that memory went in the delete file."

From June 6-8, I went up to Holy Cross to sell my books over my 45th college reunion weekend. Thankfully, everyone sported a name tag, which helped me enormously. While Claire joined me on Friday night for several hours of joyful dancing, I spent most of each day alone at a table in the campus center chatting with various passersby and selling 14 books. During down time, I picked up one or another of my four books and read a chapter or two. I retain a general awareness of what each one is about, but found that 90% of the specifics had fled far from me, causing me to read more like a stranger than the author. To my surprise, I laughed out loud over and over. I also found some of the writing considerably wiser than what I think I could write now. Ironically, I blurted out, "I really like this author!"

This experience filled me with a renewed desire to see others read my books. Among the comments on the back covers is: "One of the best books I've read in ages," and "I laughed and cried only eleven pages in." (**Nothing Impossible: Stories from the Life of a Catholic Worker**); "History tells us what people did; historical fiction helps us imagine how they felt." (**Murder on Mott Street: a Catholic Worker Mystery**); "The humor is marvelous. I love the ease and flow of the language." (**The Man Who Cannot Be Killed: A Catholic Worker Mystery**); "Scott's stories are filled with humor and insight." (**Haunted!: A Catholic Worker Mystery**); "Schaeffer -Duffy's wry humor, is also a real treat to read." "Written by Catholic Worker Scott Schaeffer-Duffy in his now trademarked wry and delightful prose, the book reminds us to keep doing the hard work of peace making, keep finding the joy and delight in resistance and be hope for one another. I found it oddly wonderful!" (**Against All Odds**).

My publisher told me that an author's biggest hurdle is convincing readers to open their books at all. Truth be told, I've read more than a few books where, after reading a few pages, I put them down for good. But reading my books for what felt like the first time convinced me that new readers would not regret diving into them.

So I have an unusual proposal: if you want a copy of any of my books, send me an email (theresecw2@gmail.com) or letter (52 Mason St., Worcester, MA 01610), and I'll send you the book with a five dollar bill tucked inside. If you don't like the book, keep the five as a recompense for the loss of your time. If you like the book, send back the five. If you love it, send the five plus the cover price, and, even better, a comment.

I realize I'm shamelessly trying to bribe you into becoming one of my readers, but I'm optimistic that those of you who take my bribe won't regret it. Ω

Letters

Dear Claire,
I enjoyed reading the article "Eureka Street" in the last edition of *The Catholic Radical*.

It is frightening and truly shameful to watch the way the Trump administration is using ICE as a battering ram to strong arm hard-working immigrants in our community and around the nation.

There is no question that the country needs fair, equitable immigration laws. These laws need to serve the best interest of its law-abiding citizens, its industries that rely on immigrant labor, as well as providing clear-cut strategies for undocumented workers. Trump's policies fail in all these objectives.

The late Pope Francis challenged people and governments to show mercy, compassion, and dignity to migrants. Let's incorporate these values into our immigration policy going forward.

Kevin P. Kelly
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Claire and Scott,
So much inspirational, motivational, and informational content in the June/July issue of *The Catholic Radical*. Thank you! The Israeli government's brutal and cruel actions—aided and abetted by the US government—in Gaza tear at our hearts. And all the while, ICE continues its reign of terror in our backyards.

We give thanks for community and join with others in prayer for the strength to keep on keeping on and for guidance in choosing the best ways forward.

Paul Rehm and Katja Sander-Rehm
Greenville, New York

Editor's Note: Amen to Paul and Katja's gratitude for community. We find it in each other, our families, friends, the local peace community, the readers of this newsletter, our parish, the Catholic Worker movement,

and the Atlantic Life Community (ALC). We were blessed to join a wonderful ALC retreat in May. We encourage other kindred souls to consider joining the next retreat over Labor Day weekend in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Families with children are most welcome. Email or write to us for more information.

Dear Friends,
"*Habemus Papum!*"

Thank you for the "Dear Pope Francis" letters and drawings by children. They bring joy and grace into the world.

"*Pace e Bene*."

Joan Monastero
Saugerties, New York

Dear Scott and Dear Claire,
Thank you again and again to the tenth power for your newsletter, nonviolent activism, service to those who are in need, and unwavering faith—a reminder to all of us that God is good, as manifested in human beings like you.

Loved the letters Pope Francis wrote to 'his" children. Love the letter you wrote to Pope Leo. Loved the writing about the cycle of revenge, and why nonviolence is the only way to find and become the solution to the problems we face. Thank you for sharing about Eureka Street, ICE, and LUCE. There are more people on the righteous path than on the evil path. We shall overcome!

And we love that you asked for help. We don't need martyrs. We need one another. We need you. So many others need you. You need us. It's our obligation and delight to give back to both of you who give so much. Thank you. Stay well and safe.

Phil Milgrom & Nancy Nowak
Warren, Massachusetts

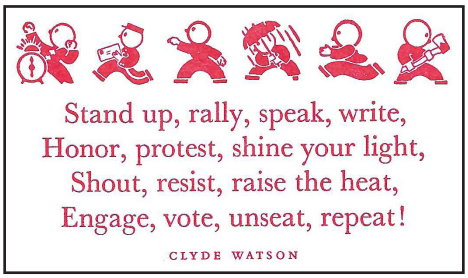
Editor's Note: Phil and Nancy founded The Centered Place yoga studio where they are "dedicated to your well-being." Their website says: "The yoga we teach releases core tensions, reduces stress, increases stamina and instills peace of mind. The meditation we teach reveals the deepest dimension of your being. You develop a new sense of self from which you can live more freely and fully." Contact them at: thecenteredplace.com.

Dear Scott and Claire,
Thanks so much for keeping us abreast of so much unhappy news around the world and on Eureka Street right here. Our pastor, Brae Adams, was there too.

So many diminishments!

A New Hampshire friend (a she) who writes verses and songs penned the words I printed into the card below for her. She does what she says—so do you squared!

Darrell & Elizabeth Hyder
North Brookfield, Massachusetts


Stand up, rally, speak, write,
Honor, protest, shine your light,
Shout, resist, raise the heat,
Engage, vote, unseat, repeat!
CLYDE WATSON

Dear Claire and Scott,
...I look forward to your newsletters and feel closer to you with each issue. These are very grim times and it helps to feel connected with others who are suffering.

Sandra McSweeney
Mendon, Massachusetts

Hi, Scott and Claire,
I've been reading poetry, most recently by Rupi Kaur, who wrote, "For as long as there is breath in our lungs, we must keep dancing."

Kathleen Reside
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Claire and Scott,
I enjoy reading your newsletter six times a year.... It always gives me something to think about.

Angie Villani
Long Beach, California

Dear Scott and Claire,
It's wonderful to feel indebted to you for the uplift and wisdom you bring us. I especially loved reading Francis's correspondence with children and the quips from the younguns in your loving household.

The [40-day] fast for Gaza in NYC allowed time for longing, but the agony inflicted on Gazans raises an overwhelming lament: "How long, O Lord?"

With you in solidarity and peace,

Kathy Kelly
Saint Charles, Illinois

Catholic Worker Calendar

August 6- Remembrance of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Please join us for speakers, prayers, and candle floating to remember the victims. 6:00-8:30 PM, Regatta Point State Park, North Lake Ave, Worcester.

August 13, September 3 & 24 - Evening Prayer: Please join us for prayer with Taizé chant. 52 Mason Street. 7 PM. Refreshments to follow.

September 10- *Against All Odds* book release: Please come to the Museum of Worcester, 30 Elm Street, to hear excerpts, ask questions, and buy a copy of Scott Schaeffer-Duffy's new book. Refreshments to follow. 6-7 PM.

September 14- Vigil to Remove ROTC from Holy Cross: Please join us on the Feast of the Holy Cross to appeal for an end to military training. Steps of Dinand Library, Holy Cross College, Worcester. Noon- 1 PM.

September 17 - Pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Please come see a presentation about Claire Schaeffer-Duffy, Charlie Washburn, Frances Anthes, and Mihoko Wakabayashi's trip to Japan on the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings. 52 Mason Street, 7 PM. Refreshments to follow.

Mason Street Musings

In the 1946 Frank Capra film "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey, a husband and father facing financial ruin and jail through no fault of his own, attempts suicide and then wishes he had never been born. Clarence, an angel sent to rescue him in response to his wife's prayers, teaches George how awful life would really be without him. In the movie's climax, dozens of George's friends overwhelm him with so much financial and emotional support that George realizes that he actually had a truly wonderful life.

In the last *Catholic Radical*, I made a strong appeal for help. Although far from contemplating suicide, I worried our debt was insurmountable, but, like the generosity shown toward George Bailey, the outpouring of love from many of you reminded me that those we serve as well as Claire and I will never go hungry on your watch. Thank you so very much.

An awareness of how blessed I am, despite my shortcomings, became even clearer in the past two months as we sheltered four guests whose lives are so much harder than my own. For some of them, their difficulties are compounded by substance abuse and mental health struggles. For all of them, the current shortage of affordable housing, meaningful work, and support services puts their backs to the wall. Small wonder some of them seek escape from harsh reality through drugs or alcohol. In a few instances, our offer of a safe and tidy place to stay with healthy meals and free laundry service are as ineffectual as throwing peanuts at a tank.

"You Can't Take It With You," 1938 Frank Capra film

One guest told me he was an only child whose wife and children are in Kenya. "I have no family, no one to lean on, no one to support me."

When I think about my six brothers and sisters, my wife, our four children, and six grandchildren, I need to remember again and again that I am showered with blessings for a reason. I don't want to be like the rich fool in Luke's Gospel who responds to a plentiful harvest by building bigger barns so he can take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry for a long time. The wealthy man can only think of himself. He cannot imagine sharing his good fortune with those in need. The irony is that he dies the very next day and God asks, "**You fool, who will get what you prepared for yourself?**"

Maybe I need to watch Frank Capra's other wonderful film, "You Can't Take It With You," to remind me to be generous when I forget that what we do with our gifts is so much more important than how big a pile of wealth we accumulate.

Having said this, I still have to confess that some of your generosity finds its way to frivolous and selfish ends. After two physically demanding days, I am taking two of my children with me tonight to see the new "Jurassic Park" movie. Maybe I'm rationalizing, but I suspect that, while God certainly calls us to take on the works of mercy and peace, God also wants us to enjoy personal pleasure. A frivolous movie, time at the beach, listening to music, dancing, time in bed with a great novel, and time with grandchildren, *et cetera* can make us more, not less selfless.

So, thank you again for the material help and the spiritual lesson. As we gear up for a busy fall, you inspire us to believe that nothing is impossible and all the way to heaven is heaven. Blessings! Ω

Scott

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